World Bank report on private spending on health

*316. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a recent study by the World Bank has revealed that the rate of private spending on health is the highest in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the study makes a host of recommendations with regard to the different aspects of health care and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard to tone up the quality health care system in this country?

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THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Private expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure according to a World Bank study of 2001 "Raising the Sights Better Health System for India's Poor" is 82% in India which is relatively high compared to other countries. The reasons for this include *inter-alia* deficient and sub-standard public health infrastructure on account of low public health spending.

(c) and (d) The study has made recommendations covering various aspect of health care *viz.* health system oversight public health service delivery, ambulatory curative services, in-patient care and health financing.

The National Health Policy - 2002 has been finalised and is being sent to the Cabinet for approval. This Policy has taken into consideration various relevant factors including *inter-alia* health care financing, equity, role of private sector, state of public health infrastructure, etc. which would have an impact on making available and improving quality health care services in the country.